

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-02 L-03 H-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 EB-07 AID-05 OIC-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 COME-00

ITC-01 CEA-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01 SS-15 SIL-01 LAB-04

ABF-01 FRB-01 OPIC-06 XMB-04 AGR-10 INT-05 IO-13 PC-05

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:AWNOONAN:AVG

APPROVED BY USOAS:AMB. WSMALLIARD

USOAS:PAMONTAVON

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 102270

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IA-ECOSOC, OAS,EGEN

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SUBJECT: OAS: ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, WASHINGTON,
APRIL 19-23, 1976

REF: STATE 077887; STATE 087508

1. NOTE: THE MAJOR ITEM OF RECENT INTEREST WAS LAST WEEK'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CIES). HENCE THIS REPORT ON THAT MEETING IS INTENDED TO DOUBLE AS OUR PERIODIC "OAS WRAP-UP" CABLE.

2. AN OPTIMISTIC TONE WAS SET FOR THE MEETING BY THE ACCEPTANCE OF MEXICO'S (DE LA MADRID) PROPOSAL THAT THE CLOSING SESSION BE ON THURSDAY RATHER THAN SATURDAY AS SCHEDULED. AS IT TURNED OUT, THE MEETING CLOSED FRIDAY NOON.

3. ECUADOR FINANCE MINISTER CESAR ROBALINO GONZAGA - THE ONLY CABINET LEVEL OFFICIAL PRESENT - WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN. ARGENTINE OAS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE CARASALES WAS CHOSEN AS FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN, JAMAICA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE RATTRAY (WHO, INTERESTINGLY, WAS NOT IN

THE COUNTRY, NOR EVEN LISTED IN THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION) WAS SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN AND USDEL CHAIRMAN WILLIAM D. ROGERS AS THIRD VICE CHAIRMAN. ONLY BOLIVIA, ECUADOR, HONDURAS, MEXICO AND NICARAGUA SENT OFFICIALS FROM THEIR CAPITALS.

4. AS EXPECTED, TWO COMMITTEES WERE FORMED TO DEAL WITH 1) ECONOMIC ITEMS, AND 2) BUDGET AND INSTITUTIONAL ITEMS. COMMITTEE I OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN, MIGUEL DE LA MADRID, MEXICO DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT; VICE CHAIRMAN: ENRIQUE GARCIA, BOLIVIA DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING; RAPPOREUR: PAULO VIDAL, OAS AMBASSADOR BRAZIL. COMMITTEE II OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN: RUBEN GARCIA, NICARAGUA VICE MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND PUBLIC CREDIT; VICE CHAIRMAN: EDRIC ROCHESTER, BARBADOS PERMANENT OAS MISSION; RAPPOREUR: LUIZ VILLARINHO PEDROSO, BRAZIL (SIC).

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5. AS EXPECTED, ROUTINE NATURE OF AGENDA RESULTED IN RELATIVELY SMOOTH AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL MEETING. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING PROPOSAL WAS PANAMA'S CALL FOR A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FINANCE MINISTERS TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STEMMING FROM PRESENT INEFFECTIVE INTER-AMERICAN MECHANISMS. IDEA WAS TO BRING TOGETHER TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED DECISION MAKERS. PROPOSAL DILUTED IN FINAL RESOLUTION BY FAILURE TO SPECIFY LEVEL AND CALIBER OF OFFICIALS WHO WOULD ATTEND A MEETING, WHOSE CONVOCATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY SANTIAGO REGULAR OASGA.

6. CONTROVERSY CENTERED ON THE USUAL GSP RESOLUTION IN

COMMITTEE I. USUAL COMPLAINTS WERE MADE ABOUT U.S. TRADE ACT. DISCUSSION WAS BRIGHTENED, HOWEVER, WHEN BRAZIL'S OAS AMBASSADOR VIDAL EXPRESSED GOB APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S CHOICE OF ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE FOOTWEAR CASE. HIS COMMENTS WERE IMMEDIATELY ECHOED BY URUGUAY AND MEXICO. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION BOTH PARAGUAY AND MEXICO ALLUDED TO FAVORABLE ASPECTS OF THE LAW. THESE ATTITUDES WERE NOT SUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, TO MODIFY INTRANSIGENT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR STAND ON THEIR RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CHANGES IN THE LAW. EVEN THOUGH DOUBTS WERE RAISED ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF A RESOLUTION WHICH U.S. COULD NOT ACCEPT, LATIN SOLIDARITY PREVAILED. WE OFFERED LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD EXPRESS HOPE THAT APPROPRIATE CHANGES WOULD BE MADE, BUT ABSTAINED ON FINAL TEXT WHICH CALLED ON U.S. GOVERNMENT TO EFFECT CHANGES.

7. COMMITTEE II SPENT MOST TIME ON CIPE, SPECIFICALLY

ON PROPOSALS FOR CONTINGENCY ADDITIONAL FUNDING. NO AGREEMENT REACHED ON PROCEDURES FOR THIS; THUS, CIPE MUST ATTEMPT TO OPERATE WITHIN APPROVED BUDGET LEVEL. MEXICO, IN PARTICULAR, CLAIMED TO SEE CONTRADICTION IN GIVING CIPE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPING TRADE PROGRAMS, WITHIN A REDUCED BUDGET. WE THINK IT CAN BE DONE WITH BETTER MANAGEMENT. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEETING REPORTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE102270
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: USOAS:AWN00NAN:AVG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760170-1064
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604115/baaaeosm.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS: ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF INTER-AMERICAN
TAGS: EGEN, OCON, XM, US, IA-ECOSOC, OAS
To: ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS INFO OTTAWA
TOKYO
TEL AVIV
THE HAGUE
BONN
ROME

LISBON
PARIS
MADRID
BRUSSELS

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006